

REMARKS

In response to the points raised in the Official Action, applicant first notes that the records of the International Bureau have been reviewed and that all three Japanese priority documents are present as shown in the attached excerpt from the records of the International Bureau. Applicant has communicated with officials in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to resolve this situation and has been informed that a copy of priority document has now been downloaded and placed in the electronic file of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the third Japanese priority document and to acknowledge receipt of the same in the next Official Action.

With regard to the request by the Examiner to review the specification, such review has been undertaken and editorial revisions have been made therein by the instant Amendment. Furthermore, claim 1 has been extensively amended to recite X, L₁ and L₂ with greater precision, to define the focal point of the dendron and to recite the generation number of the dendron. Each of these recitations is supported by the specification. In particular, the revised definition of "X" is supported by at least the description at page 4, lines 16-17 and original claim 2. The revised definitions of L₁ and L₂ are at least supported by the passage extending from page 6, line 36 to page 7, line 7. The focal point of the dendron is at least described at page 8, lines 3-12 and the generation number of the dendron is described at page 15, lines 16-17. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims now under consideration fully comply with the provisions of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. As essentially noted by the Examiner in the Action, the illustrative dendrons have a S-group as the hetero atom in X. Claim 1 has now been amended to recite a more defined list of

groups, all of which are evident from the illustrative examples. Thus, while applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection, dendrons having the defined linkages can readily be synthesized based on the information provided in the specification in light of the enablement factors set forth in the Action.

It is further noted that the specification additionally discloses as a second embodiment, a method of forming a branched structure of a dendron in which the generation of intermediates (products where the formation of branches is incomplete) is restrained (see page 24, lines 11 *et seq.*) and, as a third embodiment, a method of forming a thioacetal structure under certain reaction conditions and the formation of a dendron by the method (see page 28, line 11 *et seq.*) Accordingly, based on the information provided in the specification, applicant respectfully submits that the present application fully complies with the provisions of the first paragraph of §112.

Turning to the rejections on prior art grounds, the anticipation rejection based on Malenfant has been fully met by the amendments to claim 1 in which, *inter alia*, X, L₁ and L₂ have all been amended. Thus, for instance, X no longer includes the -O- group relied on by the Examiner and therefore this document fails to disclose or suggest the dendrimer as now recited in claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom.

With regard to Ranu et al., applicant respectfully points out that this document does not disclose dendrons and claim 1 further now recites that the dendron has a generation number of 2 to 20 which clarifies that the compounds of Ranu et al. are substantially different from the dendrons defined in the claims of record.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action have been fully met, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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